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LETTERS

FROM *May 24*

Admiral MATHEWS

TO THE *K*

Sec-t---s of State,

A THE *Bunk Office*

L---ds of the AD---TY, &c.

Relating to his

Expedition to the *Mediterranean*

With their ANSWERS.

From the Time of his going out, to the
late Engagement.



L O N D O N.

Printed for W. WERE, near St. Paul's.

A
COLLECTION
OF
LETTERS, &c.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral
M--t---s to the Duke of N---le,
so far as it relates to a supply of
ships, men, stores, provisions, or
other necessaries.

London, March 24, 1741.

YOur Grace will give me leave to say, it
is not possible for an officer to do the
service his Majesty may reasonably expect
from him, except he is properly supported.
I am greatly apprehensive, from what I know
of the condition of his majesty's squadron
now in the Mediterranean, and the very few
ships at present design'd to reinforce it, that
I shall not be able to answer his majesty's
expectations; two ships only, viz. the *Namur*
and *Princess*, being appointed. All which is
humbly submitted to your Grace's considera-
tion.

Copy of a Letter from the Duke of
N——le to the Lords Commis-
sioners of the Admiralty.

Whitehall, March 31, 1742.

MY LORDS,

I Send you herewith by his Majesty's command, a copy of a letter that I have receiv'd from Admiral M——s, by which your Lordships will see, he is apprehensive that the strength he shall find in the Mediterranean, with the reinforcement proposed to your Lordships to be sent from hence, will not be sufficient to enable him to perform the services requir'd of him. The King therefore would have your Lordships immediately take into consideration the number, state and condition of his Majesty's ships now in the Mediterranean, of those under orders to go thither, and of such others as you propose at present to send with, or soon after, Vice-Admiral M——s. And as it was always his Majesty's intention, that that service should be fully and effectually provided for, and as your Lordships by the accounts that you will find in the office, will be informed of the number, state and condition of the force that may be opposed to his Majesty's squadron in the Mediterranean; it is the King's pleasure, that you should forthwith consider what is thus represented by
Mr.

Mr. M-t — s, relating to the state and condition of his Majesty's ships under his command; and if you should be of opinion, that they will not be a sufficient strength for the services design'd, your Lordships will, in that case, order such a farther reinforcement to be sent from hence, as you may think necessary.

I am, &c.

H — s N — — — L^R.

Copy of a Letter from the Duke of N — — le to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Whitehall, April 2, 1742.

MY LORDS,

I Have receiv'd your Lordships letter of yesterday's date, relating to the strength of his Majesty's Squadron in the Mediterranean, and the force that may be opposed to it, and have laid it before the King; and his Majesty has commanded me to signify his pleasure to your Lordships, that you should give immediate directions, that besides the Princess Carolina and the Namur, which are now under orders to go with, or follow Vice-Admiral M — — s, three of his Majesty's ships (none of which to be less than sixty guns) should be sent with the utmost expedition to reinforce the Squadron in the Mediterranean, the King having extremely at heart the success of his service there.

I am, &c.

H — — s N — — — L^R.

Copy of a Letter from the Duke of N——le to Vice-Admiral M—t—s, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessaries.

April 7, 1742.

I Have had his Majesty's orders to send a copy of your letter of the twenty-fourth past, relating to the number, state and condition of his Majesty's ships in, and design'd for the Mediterranean, to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for their consideration.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral M—t—s to the Duke of N——le, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessaries.

*Namur in Villafranca Harbour,
June 6, 1742.*

YOUR Grace will see at one view, how the ships under my command are disposed, by which your Grace will be convinced of the necessity of my being supplied with a few more ships, particularly sloops and small ships,

ships, to relieve each other, it being totally impossible to keep the same ships perpetually on those stations, and our ships will require being repaired and refitted, which will take up more time than I apprehend the present service will admit of. A few more ships wou'd enable me to have some constantly refitting, by which means I should have fifteen sail always ready for service. Since the want of ships and men in England would not admit of my having any more out with me, I humbly propose to your Grace, that eight sail of good ships, all compleatly fitted for a winter's cruize, be sent out at a proper time, so as to join me early in September. I will send home an equal number, that requires the greatest repairs; such a rotation spring and fall, will greatly contribute in every respect to his Majesty's service.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral M—
t—s to his Grace the Duke of
N——le, so far as it relates to a
supply of ships, men, stores, pro-
visions, or other necessaries.

Namur in Villa-franca Harbour,

June 24th, 1742. O. S.

I AM greatly distressed for want of some
sloops to keep close in shore. It is next
to an impossibility to intercept any of their
small

small vessels and feluccas, who pass from Antibes to Genoa, and back again every week, tho' our boats are constantly out all night, which is a very great fatigue to those ships that have the stations from Cape Rous, to Cape Del Mell.

I am sorry to see by the news-papers, that the bomb-vessels had not left England the first of June, O. S. because I am convinc'd, were they here now they might be employ'd to very great advantage; I wish when they do arrive it may not be too late.

Copy of a Letter from the Duke of
N——le to the Lords Commis-
sioners of the Admiralty.

Whitehall, July 20, 1742

My Lords,

I Send you herewith by his Majesty's command, extracts of two letters from Vice-Admiral M—t—ws, dated the sixth, and twenty-fourth of June, in which your Lordships will see Mr. M—t—ws represents, that for the better carrying on of his Majesty's service in the Mediterranean, it would be proper, that eight ships completely fitted for a winter's cruize should be sent from hence, so as to join him early in September, whereupon he wou'd send home an equal number of ships now with him, that stand

most in need of being refitted. Your Lordships will also see, that Mr. M—t—ws represents, that he is greatly distressed for want of sloops, which by keeping close to the shore, might intercept any of the small vessels and feluccas that pass between Antibes and Genoa; and that he was in great want of the bomb-vessels which were order'd from hence with two men of war of ninety guns, and which by a letter I have received from Marseilles, I hope did arrive soon after Mr. M—t—ws wrote. I am commanded to signify to your Lordships his Majesty's pleasure, that you should take into consideration what Mr. M—t—ws proposes with relation to the eight ships to be sent, to be with him in September, and that you should comply with what Mr. M—t—ws desires, if you can get a sufficient number of ships ready for that purpose. And as it will be necessary that Mr. M—t—ws should always have a number of sloops and small vessels with him, it is his Majesty's pleasure, that your Lordships should keep him constantly supplied with as many as shall be sufficient for the purposes mention'd in this letter.

I am, &c.

H—s N—t—r.

Copy

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral
M—t—s to the Duke of N—le,
so far as it relates to a supply of
ships, men, stores, provisions, or
other necessaries.

*Namur, in Villa-franca Har-
bour, July 25, 1742. O.S.*

I Must take leave to acquaint your Grace, that the want of five ships more, those with me being ill mann'd, and in bad order, makes it very difficult to perform the various services expected from me; for I dare not send any more ships farther from me than I can get to them, or they come to me in five or six days. I must likewise acquaint your Grace, that the ships cannot possibly keep the sea summer and winter; and I cannot answer it as an officer, to leave a small Squadron to cruize on this coast when I go for Minorca; whereas, had I been supplied with a few more ships, I could have kept some constantly refitting and cleaning, by the doing of which, I should have had a Squadron in good order to have kept the sea in the winter.

My Squadron at present is but weak, and what is worse, ill manned, having 680 men actually on shore, and 250 more ready to land. Rear Admiral L—'s ship is grown very sickly, she having 80 men sick, many
of

of the other ships in proportion; the service is too hard to hold, I dread October which draws near.

Copy of a Letter from the Duke of N——le to Vice Admiral M——s, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessaries.

July 29th, 1742.

I Have transmitted to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty an extract of your letter of the 6th of June, desiring that eight ships fitted for a winter's cruize might be sent from hence, so as to be with you in September next, in order to your sending home an equal number of the ships now with you: And their Lordships have in answer represented, that the state of his Majesty's ships at home will not admit of their sending out that number of ships within the time desired by you; but that they intend in August to send out two ships of the line, with a supply of provisions and stores to you, which with the two 80 gun ships (which went with the bomb-vessels, and which, according to our intelligence from Marseilles, joined you soon after the date of your last letter to me) they hope will suffice for the present, especially as there will be frequent occasions for sending out

C

ships

ships to you, the arrival of which will replace those you may be under a necessity of sending home, and enable you to continue acting in pursuance to your instructions.

As to what you mention in your letter of the 24th of June (an extract of which I also transmitted to the Lords of the Admiralty) with regard to your want of sloops, in order to intercept the small vessels and feluccas passing between Antibes and Genoa; their Lordships represent, that they are no less distressed themselves in that particular, though new ships are continually building, and though they purchase all the Spanish privateers taken by our cruizers which are fit for his Majesty's service, there being so many stations which require such vessels to curb the insolence of the small privateers and row-boats of the enemy, which at this time infest all parts of our channel.

Their Lordships represent upon this head, that when Mr. H...de...k commanded in the Mediterranean, he procured and fitted out some vessels called xebecks, which were of great use to him in those parts: And they are of opinion, that if you were to hire or purchase such kind of vessels, or to employ in his Majesty's service such of them as may be taken from the enemy, they would answer your purpose better than the sloops you mention in your letter, which draw more water than is convenient for the uses above-mentioned; and you will accordingly endeavour

to

to procure a sufficient number of such xebecs, or small vessels, if they can be had.

Copy of a Letter from Vice Admiral M...t.....s to his Grace the Duke of N.....le, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessaries.

*Namur in Villa-franca Harbour,
August 9th, 1742.*

I In my last acquainted your Grace, that the different services required could not be performed with the number of ships under my command, and most of those in a bad condition, weakly mann'd, and sickly; and that keeping sea summer and winter must inevitably destroy both ships and men.

Copy of a Letter from Vice Admiral M...t.....s to the Duke of N.....le, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, and other necessaries.

*Namur in Hieres Road, the 17th
September, 1742.*

I Am inclined to give credit to what I have been often told, viz. that the Spaniards
C 2 would

would take the advantage of the dark nights, and a strong northerly wind, and attempt to get away by two or three ships at a time. I shall keep ships constantly cruizing off of Toulon to endeavour to intercept them : But most of the ships proper for that service are in so miserable a condition for want of cordage and sails, that they are by every gale of wind obliged to come in to me, to refit and mend their sails, several of them having but one main-sail. I have ordered a considerable quantity of cordage to be made ; but sails can be had only from England.

Copy of a Letter from his Grace the Duke of N.....le to Admiral M...t.....s, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, and other necessaries.

Whitehall, Sept. 30, 1742.

I Acquainted you in my letter of July the 29th, that I had transmitted to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty an extract of your letter of June 6th, desiring that a reinforcement of eight ships might be sent you from hence ; and at the same time informed you of the answer their Lordships had returned thereupon.

I am

I am very sensible that the services you are employed in are very extensive, and require a great number of ships; and the Lords of the Admiralty have therefore kept you supplied with as many as could be spared, and will continue to do so.

His Majesty was glad to find that you had already cleaned four of your seventy gun ships, and concludes, that as soon as those ships shall have joined you, you will send such others as you shall think proper to Port Mahon to be careen'd, that there may be a sufficient number of ships in a condition to keep the sea as long as you shall think it safe and necessary.

Upon your arrival at Port Mahon you will use your utmost expedition in cleaning all your ships, and getting them, as soon as possible, in a condition for service: And as it is probable that some of the ships under your command may stand in need of being repaired as well as careened, you will in that case be sending them home as convoys to the homeward-bound trade; and the Lords of Admiralty will take care to have them replaced with other ships to be sent from hence as soon as possible.

Copy

Copy of a Letter from Vice Admiral
M....t.....s to the Duke of N.....le,
so far as it relates to a supply of
ships, men, stores, provisions, or
other necessaries.

*Namur in Hieres Road the 26th
October, 1742.*

I Must beg leave to make one remark to your
Grace in regard to the supply of ships sent
me out. The Lords of the Admiralty are
pleased to reckon the Norfolk and Torbay as
two of the additional ships sent me; whereas
they, in reality, are two of my original squa-
dron, and were to have come out of England
with me, could they have been got ready;
so that I have in reality been reinforced by one
ship of 60, and one of 50 guns, and the the
very worst ship in England, in lieu of five
sail actually gone home from my squadron. I
shall take care to keep the squadron in as good
order as the nature of the present service will
admit of. I shall not trouble your Grace
with any complaints, having writ fully on
those heads to my Lord W---ch---a; only
beg leave to assure your Grace, that it is ab-
solutely necessary I should have some more
small ships sent me: Those kind of vessels
mentioned in one of your Grace's former let-
ters,

ters, for me to purchase here, are of no kind of use but in fair weather, being always oblig'd, on every gale of wind, to put afore it; and are by no means to be depended upon. I have one of them, and she commanded by a very good officer, yet I have been obliged to send her to cruize off Minorca and Majorca, for protecting the trade against the small craft, which frequently comes over from Majorca to Minorca; for she could never keep the sea off Toulon two days together.

It is most certain that this coast is subject to terrible gales of wind; scarce a day but some or other of the Squadron come in crippled: But yesterday the *Rupert* came in, having sprung her main-mast in a very dangerous manner. It is therefore my humble opinion I should have a few more ships sent me, that I may be able to maintain, if possible, this station.

Inclosed your Grace has a true state and condition of his Majesty's ships under my command.

Copy of a Letter from his Grace the Duke of N.....le, to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

October 11th, 1742.

MY LORDS,

I Send you herewith, by his Majesty's command, an extract of a letter from Vice Admiral

Admiral M...t...ws, representing his want of stores for refitting the ships under his command; and your Lordships will give the necessary directions for supplying him therewith as soon as possible.

Your Lordships will also see, that Mr M...t...ws desires that he may be reinforced with some fresh ships, and that some supernumerary sailors may be sent him, most of the ships being greatly distress'd for want of seamen; and your Lordships will give such orders therein as you shall think for his Majesty's service.

I am, &c.

H. L. L. N.

Copy of Letter from Vice Admiral M...t...s to the Duke of N....., so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessaries.

Namur in Hieres Road, the
8th November, 1742.

IT is absolutely necessary that your Grace should hasten out some ships to me; for should Don Philip return to Antibes, as it is generally believed he will, I must have many ships along the coast, from Antibes to Cape del Melle, to watch his motions.

Copy

Copy of a Letter from Vice Admiral
M...t.....s to his Grace the Duke
of N.....le, so far as it relates
to a supply of ships, men, stores,
provisions, or other necessaries.

*Naples in Hieres Road, De-
cember 22d, 1742.*

YOUR Grace has herewith a true state
of the Squadron under my command,
and their stations; by which your Grace will
see, at one view, the necessity of sending me
(and that soon) some small ships to line the
coast of Italy this spring; the Spaniards sole
dependence being on the necessity of my being
oblig'd to quit my present station, conse-
quently my leaving the coast of Italy un-
guarded.

I do not love to complain; but if your
Grace does not hasten me out some small
ships, the service will be greatly distressed.
Those with me are in bad order, and must be
repaired and cleaned, else they cannot keep the
sea. The Durlley-galley and Spence-sloop
must be sent to Minorca as soon as the Gar-
d joins me.

Your Grace is the best judge whether it be
necessary to send me any additional strength:
a few ships of the line are absolutely neces-
sary, in order to my keeping my present squa-
dron in good repair, and to enable me to
keep

keep some constantly a cleaning; else the service of the ships must inevitably suffer, besides the risque I run (by several of the squadron being disabled, as has been, and at this instant is the case) of being inferior to the conjunct fleet now at Toulon only.

I shall in a very short time gather my ships together, and shall keep them in the best order in my power for service; when that is done, many stations must be neglected. I earnestly recommend it to your Grace, that some able seamen be hastened out to me: great numbers have died; but not one man has ever been sent out by way of recruit.

Copy of a Letter from his Grace the D. of N. — e to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Whitehall, Dec. 24th, 1744

My Lords,

I Send you inclosed, by his Majesty's command, extracts of two letters from Vice admiral M. — s, dated October 26 and November 8, inclosing an account of the condition and disposition of his Majesty's ships in the Mediterranean, representing want of naval stores; and desiring, That some more ships may be sent from hence to reinforce the squadron under his command. And I am to acquaint your Lordships with his Majesty's pleasure, That you should take

to consideration the several matters mention'd
by Mr. M——s, and give such orders
thereupon as his Majesty's service may re-
quire. I am, &c.

H——N——

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Ad-
M——s to the Duke of N——
—e, so far as it relates to a sup-
ply of ships, men, stores, provi-
sions, or other necessaries.

Namur, in Hieras Road, Jan. 10, 1742.

THE inclosed is a paragraph of a letter
received from Mr. C——t by the Lords
Commissioners of the Admiralty's commands:
I think it my indispensable duty to send it to
your Grace, and hope the Squadron I have
the honour to be intrusted with the command
of, demands their Lordship's attention, equal-
ly as much as any other service whatsoever.

I shall take care to collect my ships into a
narrower compass than they are in at present,
before the middle of February. I have now
no more with me than what are mention'd in
the inclosed list. In my next, which I shall
send by a safe hand, I shall be more particular.

Extract of a Letter to me from the
Hon. T. C——t, Esq. Secretary to
the Right Hon. the Lords Commis-
sioners

orders of the Admiralty, dated
October 22, 1742.

THE French making great preparations to fit out a squadron at Brest, and it being necessary to have a strong squadron of his Majesty's ships got ready as soon as possible to observe their motions, and there being great difficulty to procure seamen, their Lordships find themselves under an impossibility at present to send you out any reinforcement of seamen; but when other services will admit of it they will take that matter into their consideration; and in the mean time they hope, that with the assistance of the soldiers you are permitted to draw from the garrison of Minorca, you will be able to keep your squadron in a condition for acting against the enemy.

Thos. C—

Copy of a Letter from his Grace the
Duke of Newcastle to Vice-Ad-
miral M—, so far as relates to
supply of ships, men, stores, pro-
visions, or other necessaries.

Jan. 18th, 1742-3.

I Have, by his Majesty's order, transmitted from time to time to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty copies of such parts of your letters as related to your want of supplies of any kind. I understand, that you would probably receive the store-ships that

were

were sent you in a short time after the date of your last to me; and you may be assured, that care will be taken to keep you constantly supplied with every thing necessary for your Squadron, and that a farther supply of ships will be sent you whenever the Lords of the Admiralty can do it consistently with the necessary services elsewhere.

Copy of a Letter from his Grace the Duke of Newcastle to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Whitehall, Jan. 28, 1742-3.

My LORDS,

SINCE writing to your Lordships the 24th past, I have received another letter from Vice-admiral Mordaunt, dated the 22d of December, inclosing a state of the Squadron under his command, and desiring that a farther reinforcement of ships, as well of the line, as smaller ones, may be sent to him, and also a number of able seamen, to recruit the complements of his ships, as a considerable number have died. I send your Lordships herewith, by his Majesty's command, an extract thereof, and am to signify to you the King's pleasure, That you should take the said letter into consideration, and give such orders thereupon as may be necessary, and most for his Majesty's service.

I am, &c.

His N^o 12.

Copy

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Ad. M-
 —s to his Grace the Duke of
 N——e, so far as it relates to a
 supply of ships, men, stores, pro-
 visions, or other necessaries.

Namur, in Hieres Road, Feb. 24, 1745

Inclosed is the state of the Squadron under
 my command, by which your Grace will
 see the absolute necessity there is of his Ma-
 jesty's ordering me some more ships.

It is not possible in the nature of things to
 keep ships perpetually at sea without their
 being fitted and careened; being when all to-
 gether but barely a match for the combined
 fleets, will not admit of my parting with any
 ships of force; and the want of their being
 refitted, &c. must inevitably prove in the
 end the ruin and destruction of this Squa-
 dron. Three of the second rates have
 been cleaned above two years; all the eighth
 gun ships, and my own, now near twelve
 months since they were in the dock. I know
 not when any can be spared to be careened
 without I have more ships I dare not part
 with any: It would be good husbandry
 greatly for the service, if I had constantly
 with me a sufficient number of ships to re-
 able me to keep two or three constantly
 fitting, or that the great ships were reliev'd
 every year. I know but one inconvenience
 attending my proposition, viz. the fresh ships
 being generally sickly, whereas the other ships
 crews are seasoned men, consequently better
 able to do their duty.

Copy

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Ad. M.
 —s to his Grace the Duke of
 N——e, so far as it relates to a
 supply of ships, men, stores, pro-
 visions, or other necessities,

Namur, in Hieres Road, Mar. 13, 1742-3.

I Must take leave to refer your Grace to my
 many letters and lists of the strength, and
 the absolutely necessary disposition of the ships
 under my command: I shall therefore make
 one short state of the strength of the conjunct
 fleet, and of that I have the honour to com-
 mand; and, at the same time, take leave to
 speak my mind freely, as it is my indispensi-
 ble duty so to do, submitting the whole to
 his Majesty's consideration. In the first
 place, the conjunct fleet are actually thirty-
 two ships of the Line, nineteen of which are
 manned and fitted, and got out of the basin
 into the outward road, the rest are fitting.
 They have six frigates and six fireships; men
 they have at command for their own ships;
 and it is not unreasonable to believe, they
 will find men to man the Spanish ships,
 without which it is not possible, in my opi-
 nion, provided I can depend upon my intelli-
 gence, for the Spaniards to put to sea: if they
 do come, they will be well manned; I wish
 I could say the squadron under my command
 was so. It is needless for me to remind your
 Grace, or the Lords of the Admiralty, how
 often I have pressed for more ships, and that
 some

some seamen might be sent to me. Your Grace has herewith the disposition of the ships, the strength actually with me, and what ships are under orders to join me, which your Grace will see, at one view, my whole strength if all together, which in order to be in the best condition in my power, to execute that part of his Majesty's command. I must not only get together as fast as I can, but always keep them so; by which means every other part of his Majesty's command must be totally neglected. My duty as an officer, the honour of his Majesty's flag, and the fatal consequences to the liberties of Europe, particularly to Italy, should this squadron meet with any misfortune by the conjunct fleet (which God avert) oblige me. I am in duty bound, to desire your Grace lay this before his Majesty.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Ad. M.
—s. to his Grace the Duke of
N—e, so far as it relates to
supply of ships, men, stores, pro-
visions, or other necessities.

Namur, in Hieres Road, Mar. 20, 1742.

I Must take leave to say, it has given me the utmost concern, that I have not had it in my power to do my duty in the manner my ambition dictated to me. Had I been properly supported, and supplied with stores I should have distressed the Spanish fleet and

army greatly : the want of which, particularly masts, obliged me not to hazard too many of the great ships at sea, for fear of the ill consequences that his Majesty's flag might have been liable to ; small ones I had none to spare, from the absolute necessity I have been under of guarding well the coast of Italy, from Villa-franca to Orbitello : had I had more, I could have found employment for them ; those few I have are so disabled, that they are scarce able to keep the sea. It has been one of the severest winters, in every respect, that ever was known in the memory of man : we have had eight days together of the very worst weather we had in the winter ; it is now fair, and I hope we may take our leave of bad weather till next winter, a few sulphurs excepted.

Copy of a Letter from his Grace the Duke of N-----e to Vice-Ad. M-----s, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessaries.

Whitehall, April 26, 1743.

I Am sorry to find, that you should still complain of any want of supplies of naval stores, or of a sufficient strength to execute the services on which you are employ'd. I have constantly transmitted to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, such part of your letters as related to those points, with the

E

proper

proper directions from his Majesty thereupon and have in return been assured by the Lordships, that there has been all possible care taken to keep you supplied with a sufficient quantity of naval stores, and that your squadron should be kept as strong as could be done consistently with other necessary services.

X
Copy of a Letter from V. A. M——
to his Grace the Duke of N——
so far as it relates to a supply of
ships, men, stores, provisions, &c.
other necessaries.

Namur in Hieres Road, May 12, 1744

I Nclosed is an account of the ships under my command, where they are stationed &c. as likewise a list of the ships which must go home before winter. I must entreat your Grace, that some fifty, two forty, and twenty gun ships may be forthwith sent out they will do the service that I am necessitated to send sixty and seventy gun ships upon.

Copy of a Letter from the S——
to the Lords Justices, to the Lord
of the Admiralty.

Whitehall, June 7, 1744

MY LORDS,

I AM commanded by their Excellencies the Lords Justices, to transmit to your Lordships

proper

ships an extract of a letter from Vice-Admiral M—t—ws to his Grace the Duke of N—le, inclosing an account of the ships under his command, where they are station'd, &c. and distinguishing the ships which must go home before winter, and desiring that some ships may be forthwith sent out to join the Squadron under his command. And I am order'd to signify to your Lordships their Excellencies directions, that you should send such of his Majesty's ships to join the Squadron in the Mediterranean, pursuant to Mr. M—t—ws's request, as can be spared consistently with other necessary services.

I am, &c.

A—w S—nc.

Copy of a Letter from the Duke of N—le to Vice-Admiral M—t—ws, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessaries.

June 17, 1743.

Receiv'd on the 6th instant your letter of the 12th of May, which I laid immediately before the Lords Justices. Their Excellencies gave directions, that an extract of it, which you desire that some ships of 30, 40, and 20 guns, may be sent from hence to join your Squadron, should be transmitted.

to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty; and I send you inclosed a Copy of a letter from Mr. C—rb—t, giving an account that their Lordships upon your application to them, had already sent to you one ship of 40 guns, two of 20 guns, and two sloops, and that they intend to send out two ships of 50 guns when they can be spared, in lieu of those which you propose to send home.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. C—rb—t
to the Secretary to the Lords Justices.

June 10, 1743

Sent to Adm. M—t—ws, June 17, 1743

S I R,

I Have laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 7th, inclosing an extract of one from Vice Admiral M—t—ws to his Grace the Duke of N—le, with a state and disposition of the ships under his command; and you having signified their Excellencies pleasure, that their Lordships should send such of his Majesty's ships to join the Squadron in the Mediterranean, pursuant to the Vice-Admiral's request, as can be spared consistent with other necessary services; their Lordships command me to acquaint you for the information of their Excellencies, that the Vice Admiral has applied to them to send out to him two ships of 50 guns, as many of 40 and one of 20; that their Lordships have

sent to him one of forty guns, two of 20 guns, and two sloops, and do intend to send out two ships of 50 guns, when they can be spared, in lieu of those he proposes to send home.

I am, &c.

Tho. C—rb—r.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral M——ws to Lord C——t, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessaries.

Namur, in Hieres Road, June 4, 1743.

Inclosed is the present disposition of his Majesty's ships under my command, and a list of such ships as must be sent soon home. It is with great concern, that I am still oblig'd to complain of the want of small ships to enable me to execute his Majesty's commands; most of the few I have are old, and whenever they are sent in to be careen'd and fitted, they are kept so long in port that the service suffers, not having others to send on their stations. His Grace's answer to my frequent demands to be supplied with more small ships is, "That the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have assured him, that my Squadron should be kept as strong as could be done consistently with other necessary services." With submission to your Lordship's better judgment, those words will not

not enable me to do what is my sole ambition, viz. to execute every minute part of his Majesty's commands; gratitude, abstracted from duty, demands it from me.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral

M — s to the Duke of N — c,
 so far as it relates to a supply of
 ships, men, stores, provisions, or
 other necessaries.

Namur, in Hieres-Road, the 13th of
 June, 1743.

IT is with concern I am still oblig'd to
 complain of not being supported with
 a proper number of small ships, to put in
 execution his Majesty's commands, many
 parts of which have been neglected, and will
 be daily more so, as I am oblig'd to send the
 disabled ones home, and those few left require
 so much time to be refitted when sent into
 ports to clean, and so few hands to do the
 work. Foul ships are of very little service to
 annoy the enemy, who never put to sea but
 when clean. Such has been my unhappy si-
 tuation, that I have not been enabled to clean
 the small ships in 11 months, tho' they never
 ought to exceed ten weeks, occasion'd for
 want of ships to relieve them. I am at this
 instant oblig'd to employ seventy-gun ships
 where small ships are wanting, and a fire-
 ship, and a bomb-vessel, with her mortar
 in, to cruize with them. It is what I
 cannot

cannot in strictness justify; but absolute necessity must be my justification, should any unforeseen accident happen to them. I am apprehensive, the reason the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have not taken any notice of my frequent complaints of wanting proper ships, to enable me to execute his Majesty's commands, is occasioned by my not being under their Lordship's immediate command in regard to my military operations; I therefore must intreat your Grace, that I may be forthwith supplied with six at least, from fifty guns downwards, that I may serve while I am able, with a little more pleasure and satisfaction, than I have done for some time past.

**Copy of a Letter from the Secretary
to the Lords Justices, to the Lords
Commissioners of the Admiralty.**

June 28th, 1743.

My LORDS,

I Am commanded by their Excellencies the Lords Justices, to transmit to your Lordships an extract of a letter from Vice-admiral M——s to his Grace the Duke of N——e; F desiring

desiring, that some small ships may be forth-
with sent out to join the Squadron under
his command. And I am ordered to signify
to your Lordships their Excellencies direc-
tions, That you should send such of his Ma-
jesty's ships to join the Squadron in the Me-
diterranean, pursuant to Mr. M——s's re-
quest, as can be spared consistently with other
necessary services.

I am, &c.

E. W-----N.

Copy of a Letter from Lord C-t—t
to Admiral M——s, so far as it re-
lates to a supply of ships, men, stores,
provisions, or other necessaries.

*Hanau, { 24 June, } 1743.
 { 5 July, }*

ALL matters relating to the admiralty
must be transacted in England.

Copy

Copy of a Letter from Admiral M—
 — s to the Duke of N——e,
 so far as it relates to a supply of
 ships, men, stores, provisions, or
 other necessaries.

*Namur, in Villa-franca Harbour, the
 17th of July, 1743. O. S.*

I Cannot but be greatly surprized at the contents of Mr. C--b-t's letter of the 10th of June to Mr. S---e, which was to be laid before their Excellencies the Guardians of the Realm, &c. In the first place, the ship of forty guns, said to be sent me, did not sail till the 9th of June; she has under her convoy the victualing and store-ships, besides the trade to Portugal, and may be a long time on her passage; for as yet I know not where she is. Secondly, the two sloops were sent to Gibraltar in the room of the two cast away last year. The two twenty gun ships were sent out to strengthen them, for the protection of the trade into and out of the Mediterranean, and I was desired to send thither the only xebeck I had, which I did immediately, and likewise to keep a ship of force cruizing on the coast of Spain, because it was said there were some ships of force at Carthagea. That coast has never been without

a fifty gun ship since the Romney was first ordered there, which was in September last. I am told by the master of a galley lately come from Gibraltar, that Capt. Cornish in his Majesty's ship Guernsey, has run the Spanish ship of twenty-six guns on shore, and destroy'd her. It would be highly imprudent in me, to call off from that Service any of those ships, when they all together are barely sufficient to do the Service for which they were sent there. The ships I have desired might be sent out to me are to enable me to put his Majesty's commands in execution in regard to the services on the coast of Italy, Catalonia and Provence. With humble submission to their Lordships, the supply of ships sent to Gibraltar are of no manner of use to me for the end I demanded them, nor ought they to have been represented in the light they are to their Excellencies. As for the two 50 gun ships their Lordships are pleased to say, they will send out when the other services will admit of it; all the answer I shall give to that is, that I have done my duty in having frequently represented to your Grace, and the Lords of the Admiralty, the distress I have been, and still am in, for want of ships to put in execution his Majesty's commands. If any thing should happen whereby his Majesty's flag should be disgrac'd, or that I should not be able to proceed upon such services as his Majesty shall judge

judge proper to command me, tho' it will be a very great mortification to me, I cannot possibly be blamed ; I shall do all that is left in my power to prevent any such misfortunes happening, by detaining all those ships that ought to be sent home, till your Grace thinks proper to order out ships to relieve them. More I cannot do, nor less I dare not ; tho' I must at the same time take leave to acquaint your Grace, that those ships will not be able to keep the sea, shou'd they be wanted in the winter ; but his Majesty's commands and my own reputation, compel me to keep them.

It is needless for me to trouble your Grace with repetitions of what I have so often represented to your Grace, and the Lords of the Admiralty, *viz.* want of ships ; your Grace knows the strength of the combined fleet, and of that I have the honour to command.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Corbett,
to Admiral M—t—s, August 1,
1743.

In the Lords of the Admiralty's representation of August 22, 1743.

THE rest of your letter of the 30th of June, and indeed the chief substance of

of most of your preceding letters, appearing to their Lordships to consist of a disagreeable repetition of complaints of your inability to execute his Majesty's instructions, for want of a sufficient number of ships; their Lordships command me to remind you, that when you receiv'd in London his Majesty's instructions for your commanding his fleet in and about the Mediterranean, and had fully consider'd the same, you insisted on, and had that number of ships allow'd you which you then thought sufficient to enable you to perform his Majesty's orders; that if you compare the squadron you had then, with that which is now under your command, you will find the former inferior both in force and number, tho' the Spanish squadron is fewer, and in general, in worse condition than at that time, both in respect to men, stores, and provisions; so that they cannot see any foundation for the constant complaints you have made on that head, when it appears, that notwithstanding the many other services which call for his Majesty's ships, they have not only supported the same strength you set out with, but have rather encreased it.

In some late letters you mentioned your design of sending home the Panther and Rochester; but one of them being intended to be converted into a hulk at Port Mahon, their Lordships sent away the Chatham some days

days ago, with the trade bound to the Mediterranean, as far as Mahon, and then to join you; and this will be brought to you by the Nonfuch, accompanied by the Seaford, to relieve the Dursley-Galley, which you represent to be in a bad condition.

In three weeks after the date of this, their Lordships will endeavour to send out to you, one ship of 80, and another of 70 guns, in the room of the Somerset and Ipswich, which you represent to be in so bad a condition, as to require their being sent home.

If their Lordships could depend upon the exact time that you would send any disabled ships home, which none of your letters do ascertain, they would be better able to judge of the times of sending you others in their room; and likewise give proper notice to the trade, or for sending out ships with supplies of stores and provisions for your fleet: And they would also be better able to fix the times of putting ships here into commission, from the expectation of the men coming home in your disabled ships, who might serve as a foundation towards manning them; and their Lordships hope, for the good of the service, you will be exact in this particular for the future.

Their Lordships having received strong complaints of the many prizes taken in the Gutt by the enemy's small privateers, and charging the Captains of his Majesty's frigates and

and sloops stationed there with great remissness in the performance of their duty, their Lordships have thought fit, not only to send them very strict orders for their better conduct, but will certainly dismiss them upon the next complaint; and have ordered me to send you, as I do herewith, a copy of the said order, and of the complaint against them.

Copy of a Letter from the Secretary
to the Lords Justices, to the Lords
Commissioners of the Admiralty.

August 16th, 1743.

MY LORDS,

I Send your Lordships herewith, by order of the Lords Justices, an extract of a letter from Admiral M-t----s to his Grace the Duke of N-----le, dated 17th of the last month, relating to his want of ships, that your Lordships may take the same into your consideration, and give such orders thereupon, as you shall think proper, and as his Majesty's service may require.

Copy

Copy of a Representation of the Lords
Commissioners of the Admiralty
to the Lords Justices.

August 22d, 1743.

*In the Duke of N-----le's letter to Admiral
M--t---s, of Nov. 4th, 1743.*

May it please your Excellencies;

MR. Stone having sent us, by your Excellencies order, an extract of a letter from Admiral M--t---s to his Grace the Duke of N-----le, dated the 17th of last month, relating to his want of ships, that we might take the same into consideration, and give such orders thereupon as we shall think proper, and as his Majesty's service may require, and we having before received directions from your Excellencies by your Secretary's letters of the 7th and 28th of June, that we should send such of his Majesty's ships to join the Squadron in the Mediterranean, as can be spared, consistently with other necessary services, we take leave to represent that Admiral M--t---s having often repeated to us the

G

same

same complaint of the want of ships, we sent him by the last conveyance a full answer, declaring our sentiments upon that point; copy of which we beg leave to annex hereto, and submit to your Excellencies.

Inclosed is a list of the ships which the Admiral insisted upon having under his command, when he first set out for the Mediterranean, and which he then thought sufficient to perform all the services he was directed by his Majesty's instructions. Another is a list of the ships now with him, by which your Excellencies will perceive, whether that strength he once thought sufficient has been diminished, or rather whether it has not been improved. We have also subjoined a third list, shewing the ships that are gone or going to him, and the room of what ships they are meant to supply.

Your Excellencies will please to judge by these lists, whether the Admiral is not superior in ships of the line of battle to all his Majesty's enemies in those parts, and whether he has not a sufficient number of frigates and small ships to protect the trade, and perform other contingent services. We do therefore submit the same to your Excellencies, with this observation, that the complements of the ships under his command amount to near one half of the whole number of seamen voted by parliament for all the various services.

services of the war at sea, which do equally require our care and attention to them.

The Admiral appears dissatisfied, that when we sent our supplies of men of war to him, they take under their convoy the outward-bound trade to Portugal and the Mediterranean, and the ships laden with naval stores and provisions for his squadron: But if the trade does not come under his regard, he ought at least to have reflected, how he could possibly be supplied with naval stores and provisions, if the ships freighted therewith did not proceed out under convoy of the men of war we send to reinforce him.

This way of thinking, that the two ships of twenty guns, and the two sloops we sent to Gibraltar, to protect the trade into and out of the Mediterranean, ought not to be considered as a supply to him, is very extraordinary, unless he looks upon that service not to be within his instructions, which we always apprehended it to be; and if we were to take the direction of that service from him, we believe he would be very loud in his complaint to your Excellencies. We have often press'd him always to keep some small men of war on that station, and to hire or purchase Barcalongo's, Row-boats, or such like armed vessels, to accompany the men of war, and follow the chace of the enemy into shoal-water, or in case of calms, which would have been of great use: But we have not

been able to prevail upon him to do it, though our trade has been much exposed in that passage, and the merchants have complained to us of the want of small ships stationed there; upon which we sent out the above-mentioned ships and sloops, with direction to their Captains to obey the Admiral's orders, and put themselves under his command. We annex hereto extracts of an order, and of several letters sent to the Admiral on that subject, and humbly submit the whole to your Excellencies.

W---CHELS--A.

J. C---B---NE.

B---TI---RE,

GEO. L---.

*Admiralty-Office,
August 22, 1743.*

Copy

Copy of a Letter from Admiral M--
t—s to his Grace the Duke of
N——le, so far as it relates to a
supply of ships, men, stores, pro-
visions, or other necessaries.

*Namur in Villa-franca Harbour,
Sept. 15th, 1743.*

IT is very disagreeable to be perpetually
teazing your Grace with the same thing
over and over. Inclosed is an extract of what
I writ my Lord C--t---t. I have so many
irons in the fire, that I wish his Majesty's
flag may not meet with a severe rebuke.

Inclosed your Grace has the present dispo-
sition of all the ships under my command.

I cannot help complaining and saying, that
it is very disagreeable serving under all the
difficulties I have laboured for ten months
past, and still do, for want of being sup-
ported in a proper manner.

Extract

Extract of a Letter from Admiral
M---t----s to Lord C--t---t.

Villa-franca Harbour, 13th Sept. 1743.

In Admiral M--t----'s of 15th September.

IN order to give his Sardinian Majesty all the assistance in my power, for the defence of this very important port, I sent for 400 men additional soldiers from the fleet, to make up those with me 800, which are to be landed in case the enemy should think proper to attempt surprizing the County of Nice and this port. This is my present situation : But it is my indispensable duty to acquaint your Lordship, that unless some ships are under orders to join me, it will be totally impracticable for me to execute his Majesty's commands. It is with concern I am compell'd to say, that the service under my command has, for upwards of ten months past, been cramped beyond belief itself, and is so at this juncture, greatly to the prejudice of his Majesty's service and the common cause ; and I must take leave to repeat again, that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty's constant answer to my pressing demands for a supply of ships being sent me, will do no business.

Copy

Copy of a Letter from the S——ry
to the Lords Justices, to the Lords
Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Whitehall, Oct. 20, 1743.

My Lords,

I AM commanded by their Excellencies,
the Lords Justices, to transmit to your
Lordships for your consideration, the copies
which you will find inclosed, of three let-
ters from Admiral M—t—s to his Grace
the Duke of N——le.

I am, &c.

E. W——N.

Copy

Copy of a Letter from Admiral
 M^r ~~to~~ the Duke of N~~amur~~
 le, so far as it relates to a sup-
 ply of ships, men, stores, pro-
 visions, or other necessaries.

Namur in Villafranca Harbour,

Sept. 21. 1743. O. S.

I Have receiv'd certain advice, that the
 French at Toulon are careening all their
 ships, have called in their seamen, and that
 they work as if they were to put to sea
 with the utmost expedition. The Spaniards
 have unbent their sails, and it is writ me,
 that they are putting on shore all their pow-
 der, in order (as it is believ'd) to careen
 their ships, the truth of which I shall like-
 wise know in a few days; if that be fact, it
 will take up some time, tho' the French
 want neither for proper conveniences, nor
 assistance for expedition; whereas, God
 knows, we want for every thing, and shou'd
 it turn out a French war, the fleet under
 my Command is by no means in a proper
 condition for it in any respect. In the first
 place, I have not a sufficient number of
 ships to enable me to keep sending a proper
 number

number to refit and careen; and if I had, the want of artificers at Minorca will not let me depend upon their rejoining me in any reasonable time. Many of the ships with me have been so long out of England, that were they to be sent down to be repair'd, they could not be refitted so as to join me in three months, if capable of being repaired without a dock. I have represented the state and condition of the ships under my command so often, and to so little purpose, that I am tired of complaining; I have likewise recommended to their Lordships, that they wou'd be pleased to order out some great ships, to relieve some that have not been dock'd nor careen'd near three years; nor will the service admit their being sent, for want of a sufficient number of hands to dispatch them; and if they stay out much longer, it is my opinion, some of them will not swim home without being sheath'd; how, and in what time that can be done (without great prejudice to the other services) is past my understanding. In short, the keeping the ships out so long is their utter destruction, and is not only a great discouragement to the officers and men, but also injurious to the service.

Inclosed is a list of the ships under my command, by which your Grace will see at one view, the time they were last cleaned. To conclude, I take leave to say, the caulkers and carpenters have not been one hour idle since I have taken upon me the command, nor shall they, for I will continue
H sending

sending down ships to Mahon, and those which will be first and most wanting, and were first clean'd. Permit me to repeat again what I formerly writ your Grace, all which I must intreat your Grace to lay before their Excellencies the Guardians of the Realm, &c. hoping they will be pleased to give such directions as they in their great wisdom shall judge proper. I do not trouble your Grace with my want of stores, and some species of provisions; because I understand from some private letters, that the convoy left Plymouth the fourteenth of August; and Commissioner F——ngh-m writes me of the eleventh instant, that he daily expects their arrival.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral M——
——s to the Duke of N———e,
so far as it relates to a supply of
ships, men, stores, provisions, or
other necessaries.

*Namur, in Villa-franca Harbour, the
11th of October, 1743.*

I Shall endeavour to the utmost of my power, during the little time I hope to continue in his Majesty's favour, to execute all his Majesty's commands; and wish, for the sake of my country, that I had been better supported, to have been enabled to have carried on the service agreeable to my inclination and ambition; but that has not been my good fortune.

Copy

Copy of a Letter from his Grace the Duke of N———e to Admiral M——s, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessities.

Whitehall, November 4, 1743.

I Have constantly taken care, that all your applications for supplies of ships, or stores, should be laid before the Lords Justices, and be by them referred to the Board of Admiralty. And I now transmit to you, copies of two representations from that Board to the Lords Justices, containing the answer of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to your several complaints on that head.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral M——s to his Grace the Duke of N———e, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessities.

Namur, in Villa-franca Harbour, October 30, 1743.

I Nclosed is the list of my original strength, of the ships sent home, the date of their orders; and likewise of those sent me, the days they joined me, and the ships now under my command; by which your Grace will see, that I never have had my original strength and number of ships at any one time since I

have been in command, nor near it till the 20th instant, and that by being joined by two ships of fifty and one of twenty guns, Their lordships imagine, every ship with me to be always fit for service; which is far from being the case, as your Grace will see by the inclosed. Your Grace has likewise herewith an account where every ship is stationed; by which your Grace will see, that I have not a number of proper ships to relieve them; which, with humble submission to their Lordships better judgments, is essentially necessary, and for want of them his Majesty's commands for the good of the common cause must inevitably suffer.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral M——s to his Grace the Duke of N——e, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessaries.

Namur, in Villa-franca Harbour, November 6, 1743.

TH O' I have reason to hope my time of resigning my present command draws near, having had advice, That the Dorsetshire and Berwick were off Gibraltar twenty-two days ago; yet I think it my indispensable duty while I am in command, to represent to your Grace every thing that I judge

judge to be for the good of the service. Mr. C-rb--t was pleased by their Lordships commands, to tell me in his letter of the 1st of August, in these very remarkable Words, " The rest of your letter of the 30th of June, " and indeed the chief substance of most of " your preceding letters, appearing to their " Lordships to consist of a disagreeable re- " petition of complaints of your inability to " execute his Majesty's instructions, for want " of a sufficient number of ships, &c." If their Lordships had been pleased to have added stores likewise, it would have been but truth. It is needless for me to trouble your Grace, at this time, with the remainder of that paragraph ; I shall only take leave to say, it has been much more disagreeable to me, to have laboured continually under almost unfurmountable difficulties in every respect, than it can possibly have been to their Lordships to have been only told of them. I shall make no remarks at this time upon my present situation, as I have reason to believe no expedition will take place while I continue in command ; if there had, I leave your Grace to judge what number of ships Mr. L——k would have been left with, especially if I had complied with what their Lordships have perpetually harp'd upon, *viz.* " To send " home all the disabled ships that they may " avail of their Men, in order to send me " out other ships in their room : " That is, six months after the arrival of the ships I send

send home. I complain of the want of ships to carry on his Majesty's service, as it ought to be done, and their Lordships desire me to make myself weaker, thereby to render myself totally incapable of executing his Majesty's commands. I leave the force of their Lordships way of reasoning to your Grace's consideration; and I must take leave to add, that the squadron is in want of masts, cables, and many other necessary stores, as there is not one mast in store for a ship of seventy guns, if any for those of sixty. I hope the ships will not suffer this winter as they did the last; if they do, they must lie by the walls: and the want of cables for the great ships may prove of ill consequence.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral M—s to his Grace the Duke of N——e, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessaries.

Namur, in Villa-franca Harbour, November 23, 1743.

I Must now take leave to state facts, at least those I judge must be such in a little time. The French will have twenty-one sail at Toulon only; the Spaniards have eighteen, great and small; and I take it for granted, that the scheme I formerly mention'd to your Grace was talked of at Toulon, will
now

now take place, viz. the French to take some of the Spanish ships and to mann them; without which, it is my opinion, that all the Spanish ships cannot possibly get manned. All the strength that I can depend upon having with me against January is twenty eight, fifty gun-ships included, and they all to be in a condition to keep the sea; and then all the other parts of his Majesty's commands must be totally neglected, by the Spaniards and French having the whole coast of Italy open to them, to carry, by small embarkations, recruits into Italy.

Copy of a Letter from his Grace the Duke of N-----e to Admiral M-----s, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessaries.

Whitehall, December 13, 1743.

AS I have from time to time transmitted to the Board of Admiralty extracts of your letters, complaining of the want of ships, stores, &c. and sent you their answers thereupon; so I have, since the receipt of your last dispatch, had his Majesty's particular orders to acquaint my Lord W-----, That an additional force should be immediately sent you; and I herewith transmit to you a paper deliver'd to me by his Lordship,

ship, by which you will see what ships are proposed to be sent to you, and at what time they will be able to sail from hence.

Copy of a Letter from Adm. M——s
to his Grace the Duke of N——e,
so far as it relates to a supply of
ships, men, stores, provisions, or
other necessaries.

Turin, December 30, 1743. N. S.

Yesterday morning a piece of intelligence was sent me, *viz.* That the Brest Squadron was actually sailed; and at the same time I received a list of the ships, with their commanders names: But I flatter myself, and hope it is not true. I take leave to assure his Majesty, that I hope we shall do our duty; the ships with me are kept in a constantly readiness to proceed upon service; if I am joined in time by the ships from Minorca, as I have reason to hope I shall, if not by all, by most of them, having sent two expresses, to order their putting to sea with the utmost expedition, and not to wait for careening. I flatter myself they will not do us much harm.

It is to no manner of purpose to trouble your Grace with any kind of complaints of the little regard that has been paid to my
fre-

frequent complaints of want of ships ; it will answer no end at present, a little time will shew if they were just.

Copy of a Letter from his Grace the Duke of N——e to Admiral M——s, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessaries.

December 23, 1743:

I Sent you, by the last messenger, a paper given me by my Lord W——a, containing the names of the great ships proposed to be sent immediately to reinforce your Squadron. My Lord W——a has since told me, That three of those ships, viz. the Boyne, Chichester, and Burford, with the Deptford store-ship, would have sailed on Wednesday last, if the wind had been fair, and are actually ready to sail with the first fair wind ; and that the other three will follow without loss of time. And I am also authorized by my Lord W——a to assure you, that you shall have farther Reinforcements, according to the advices we shall have of the number of ships that shall sail from Brest, or Rochfort ; and such as shall be sufficient to oppose any force they shall meet with in their passage to you, and as
I may

may enable you to resist the combin'd fleets of France and Spain now at Toulon, even tho' they should be joined by any ships from Brest.

— P. S. I have just receiv'd an account from the Admiralty, that the Boyne, Chichester and Burford, did sail on Wednesday morning last from Spithead, and the wind being now easterly, it is hoped they are got out of the channel.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral
M ———s to the Duke of N —
——e, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessaries.

*Namur, in Villa-franca Harbour, the
25th of Dec. 1743.*

SHIPS I want, but know not where to find them; they are employ'd in stations from which they cannot be taken without prejudice to the service; I could wish for two to send to cruize off Port Spezzia, having reason to believe, some embarkations with troops, &c. will be sent thither from Languedock, since they dare not venture to go to Civita Vecchia; but I have not one ship to send till the Feversham and Winchelsea join me.

I have reason to hope my orders got to Minorca in time, to stop the Somerset and
Warwick,

Warwick, and I have kept the Rochester; more I had not in my power to do, and I flatter myself, that all the ships at Minorca will join me before the conjunct fleet can put to sea, tho' it is certain, that they propose being ready by the last of Jan. N. S.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral
M - - - s to the Duke of N - -
- - e, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessaries.

*Namur, in Hieres Road, January 3,
6th, and 8th, 1744*

Inclosed is an account of the ships I have with me, and where the rest of the squadron is stationed; so that if the conjunct fleet should put to sea at their fixed time, viz. the twentieth instant, N. S. your Grace will easily conceive the situation I must be in, which nothing but the late and present bad weather could have occasioned, all the ships having been ready to put to sea the thirtieth of last month, Royal-Oak and Somerset excepted; the delays in not fitting them sooner, are, I confess, past my understanding.

I have constantly given your Grace the best account I could procure of what was transacting in Toulon; I have likewise in al-

most every Letter desired a reinforcement of ships, to enable me to execute his Majesty's commands. As often as your Grace has honour'd me with his Majesty's commands, your Grace has as constantly acquainted me, that you had from time to time transmitted to the Board of Admiralty, my complaints of the want of ships, &c. Their Lordships constant reply was, that they wou'd supply me when the other services would permit them. Inclosed is my reply to their Lordships answer to your Grace and my Lord C——t on that head. On the first of August, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty did me the honour to tell me, "That the rest of my several Letters contained nothing but disagreeable complaints of want of ships to enable me to execute his Majesty's commands," and then proceed also to tell me, that the enemy was not so strong as when I enter'd upon my command, &c. I have already writ your Grace so fully, and likewise their Lordships on that subject, that I shall not take up your Grace's time with repetitions, but proceed to that part of their Lordship's letter of the twenty-sixth of October to the Regency, an extract of which I take leave to enclose, and likewise of Mr. C———'s letter to me of the ninth of December.

I sincerely wish, that some of the absent ships may join me in time, else twenty sail, four of which are but of fifty guns, will
make

make but a very poor figure, shou'd the conjunct fleet put to sea ; their number is by all accounts reported to me to be thirty-six, twenty-eight of which are from fifty guns upwards.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. C---
 ---t to Admiral M---s, Dec. 9.
 1743.

AS I am order'd to send this information to you, I am likewise order'd to add, that if you had given their Lordships such particular advices, as they had reason to expect from time to time, of the numbers and strength of the French and Spanish ships in Toulon, with their fitness or readiness for the sea, and the state of their men, stores, and provisions, they should have been better able to form a judgment whether or when to have sent out any reinforcement of ships to you, and what number.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. C---
 ---t to Admiral M---s, Oct. 26.

1743.

*In Admiral M---s of Jan. the 3d,
 6th, and 8th, 1743.*

THough their Lordships think it incumbent on them to keep up the strength
 of

of Mr. M——s's squadron, by supplies of fresh ships in the room of those disabled, they cannot take upon them to send out an additional force of ships to him without express direction, as they are not inform'd of the reasons or necessity for it.

Extract of a Letter from Admiral
M——s to Lord C——t.

Villa-franca Harbour; Sept. 13, 1743.

*In Admiral M——s's to the Duke of
N——le, of Jan. the 3d, 6th, and
8th, 1743.*

IT is my indispensable duty to acquaint your Lordship, that unless some ships are under orders to join me, it will be totally impracticable for me to execute his Majesty's commands. It is with concern I am compelled to say, that the service under my command has, for upwards of ten months past, been cramp'd beyond belief itself, and is so at this instant, greatly to the prejudice of his Majesty's service, and the common cause; and I must take leave to repeat again, that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty's constant answer to all my pressing demands for a supply of ships being sent me, will do no business.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral
M ———s to the Duke of N —
——e, so far as relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessaries.

Namur, in Hieres Road, Jan. 11. 1743.

MY last letter to your Grace was dated the third, sixth, and eighth instant. On the ninth the weather changed, and the wind came about to the southward, and the same night it came to the westward. I had the pleasure of seeing this morning by day-break several sail; about ten, I was join'd by the Kingston, Princessa, Elizabeth, Berwick, and Guernsey; the last ship having a very considerable sum of money on board, which she took in at Lisbon, and not being now under any apprehensions of the conjunct fleet coming out, I have dispatch'd her to Genoa, with orders to rejoin me without a moment's loss of time. I have reason given me to hope, that the Somerset and Warwick put to sea this morning; and as the wind continues westerly, I do not despair seeing them to-morrow, or next day at farthest. As for the Royal-Oak, I cannot expect to see her in less than twenty days, nor do I know any thing of the Nonsuch. Six tenders with provisions and stores have likewise joined me.

About one the Winchelsea joined me: She stood close into Toulon in the morning;

ing, counted sixteen sail of ships close with-
in the boom, not all compleatly rigg'd;
ten sail more a little higher up in the
Harbour, none of which were above half
rigg'd. Captain De L'angle tells me, that
he could distinguish the men at work on
board the most of them.

About three this afternoon the Marlbo-
rough came in sight: There is another ship
with her, but too far off to distinguish if she
is a man of War: They will both get in I
hope to night.

Copy of a Letter from his Grace the
Duke of N———e to Admiral
M———s, so far as relates to a
supply of ships, men, stores, pro-
visions, or other necessaries.

January 13th, 1743-4.

YOU will see by the inclosed extract of a
letter from the Lords Commissioners of
the Admiralty, the names of the three ships
which are now at Spithead and Plymouth,
waiting only for a fair wind to proceed to the
Mediterranean, in order to join you. And
my Lord W-----a this day told me, that
orders were given for some ships which are now
at sea (if they can be met with) to join you
also: And as the Boyne, Chichester, and Bur-
ford sailed on the 21st past for the Mediterra-
nean

mean. His Majesty hopes, that with this force you will be able to give a good account of the French and Spaniards. And as soon as we have certain intelligence that the ships from Brest are actually gone, a farther very large reinforcement will be sent you.

Extract of a Letter from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to the Duke of N——le.

January 13th, 1743-4.

WE do acquaint your Grace, that his Majesty's ships the Duke and Cornwall, with the Ætna fire-ship, lie at Spithead, and the Sapphire at Plymouth, under sailing orders, and will proceed with the first fair wind for the Mediterranean, with the trade bound to Portugal and the Mediterranean.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral M——t——s to the Duke of N——le, so far as it relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessaries.

*Namur in Hieres Road, the 14th
January, 1743.*

ALL I shall say now is, that if the ships from Brest do not get to Toulon, I hope

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we

we shall be able to do our duty with those now at Toulon, if they come out. I have the pleasure to assure his Majesty, that all his subjects under my command are in high spirits, and the ships in as good order as it is in my power to put them. I could wish for a thousand more seamen ; but it is too late.

Copy of a Letter from the Duke of N———le to Admiral M———s, so far as relates to a supply of ships, men, stores, provisions, or other necessaries.

February 3d, 1743-4.

I Acquainted you in my letter of the 13th past with the intelligence his Majesty had received of the strength of the French Squadron at Brest, and of their being at that time in readiness to put to sea. The uncertainty of the destination of that Squadron, and the necessity there was of keeping a sufficient number of ships for the defence of these kingdoms, induced his Majesty to give orders for the three ships, which I acquainted you were ordered to sail for the Mediterranean, to be kept at home till farther orders; which,

which, from the present motions of the Brest Squadron, seems now to have been very lucky.

On Wednesday last his Majesty received the inclosed Account from Captain Broderick, by which it appears, that the Brest Squadron, consisting of twenty-one ships, sailed on the 26th past, and that on the 27th Captain Broderick left them at the distance of about sixteen leagues from Ushant, steering their course towards our coast. It is thought very improbable here, that the said fleet should come out, so far out of their way, when the wind was fair, if they had intended to go to the Mediterranean; But however, as that may be possible, should it prove to be so, you may depend upon having a farther reinforcement sent to join you, under the command of a flag-officer, inferiour to you in rank.

Copy of a Letter from Captain B-----
-----k to Mr C-----tt.

*In the Duke of N-----le's to Admiral M-----
t-----s, February 3d, 1743-4.*

*Phoenix in Plymouth Sound, 30th
January, 1743.*

S I R,

P R A Y acquaint their Lordships that on Thursday the 26th instant in the evening the French fleet, being twenty-one ships, with

with three flags at their mizzen-top, they came out of Brest water. As soon as they got the length of the Molène Islands they brought to, with their heads to the southward. I accordingly did the same, and kept in sight of their lights all night. At day-break next morning they made sail, keeping between the N. W. and N. by W. till noon; then N. by E. till three o'clock. Then they haul'd up, N. E. by N. having a fresh of wind at E. S. E. which course they continued till sun-set. They then reefed their top-sails, and made an easy sail, some of them under their top-sails, others under their top-sails and fore-sail, keeping away north. I kept in sight of their lights till after seven o'clock, and could not perceive them to alter their course. Ushent then bore off me, S. by E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. distance 16 leagues. It being very snowy dirty weather, and very little prospect of keeping in sight of them, I therefore thought it advisable to make the best of my way for England, to give their Lordships this intelligence.

I am, &c.

THO. BRODERICK

F I N I S.